REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)
VA-251-12-B-0121

PROJECT NUMBER:	515-313	Please ensure that before submitting questions or requests for clarification that you thoroughly read the solicitation, specifications, drawings and other pertinent documents. When submitting questions on this project the Government requires contractors to specifically identify the specification and/or solicitation section(s) or drawing number(s) in reference to the question or request for clarification submitted. No question or request for clarification will be answered by the Government unless the above requirements are met. Failure to comply may prevent the Government from responding in a timely manner.
PROJECT TITLE:	Mental Health Renovation B7	
PROJECT LOCATION:	Department of Veterans Affairs Battle Creek VA Medical Center 5500 Armstrong Road Battle Creek, MI 49037	

SUBMITTED BY:	n/a	City/State:	n/a
PHONE NO.:	n/a		

TO:

Sonny Earls, Contract Specialist
Department of Veterans Affairs
Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center
1500 Weiss St.
Saginaw, MI 48602

RFI NO.: 004	**DATE:08-10-2012**	**SPEC/DWG. REFERENCE: 275116, EY601**
REPLY NEEDED BY: ASAP		

INFORMATION NEEDED:

1. The spec talks about life-safety standard, yet if there was a tie-in between the fire panel and the PA system, I missed it.
2. As we discussed on the phone, the EWS-4 only works when the LSI-16 life safety interface is present. Someone needs to make the decision whether or not there is a LSI-16.
3. If there is an LSI-16, then there should also be a CI-1 annunciator interface, to give audible and visual cues if the PA system is compromised, and though which routine system checks may be initiated.
4. If there is no LSI-16, then the EWS-4 should become a WS-4.
5. The phone page adapter thing is very odd. The Vocia MS-1 message server contains a VoIP trunk server, capable of all the functions described. But note that it is not a separate unit or module… it's just "in there." We need to know if the PA is supposed to interface to a SIP-based VoIP server (ideal), or a PoTS line. If PoTS, then you will need an adapter to convert the PoTS line call to a VoIP call. I hope that's not the case, because having that adapter can really restrict the flexibility of the system, from a phone-based paging standpoint.
6. Analog inputs are mentioned in the Amplifier requirements. That would dictate the use of the VA-4030e, not the VA-4030. The "e" version has these low-priority, general use inputs.
7. No mention is made of speaker cable construction, or speaker length. Biamp will not guarantee performance of the ELD-1 end of line device over 500 feet. Also, low capacitance (<25PF/foot) unshielded twisted speaker cable is required.

This is in regards to the Biamp Vocia system that is spec'd. These questions have come from the Biamp Representative and me. Thank you.

REPLY:

1. **The fire alarm (FA) system is designed to operate standalone from the public address system. It annunciates over dedicated fire alarm cabling, speakers and strobes. The public address (PA) system will not be used to annunciate for the fire alarm system. To meet life-safety standards, the public address / MNS (Mass Notification System) must be interconnected to the fire alarm system such that a MNS announcement (Not General PA) will override the fire alarm speakers, turn them off, and leave the fire alarm strobes flashing during a MNS voice page.**
2. **There should not be a LSI-16.**
3. **No LSI-16.**
4. **No LSI-16, use EWS-4.**
5. **The PA system is to interface to a POTS Analog phone line.**
6. **Use the VA – 403E Version.**
7. **Cable size and type per manufacturer's recommendations is to be used.**
8. **The Biamp Voice system noted above was not specified for this project and is incorrectly stated in the RFI request.**

REPLY FROM:	DATE:
Bill Howerth / Mo Kagzi, Albert Kahn Associates	**August 15, 2012**
ATTACHMENTS:	COPY TO:
None	**George Granger, BC-VAMC COR** **Brent Barbee, BC-VAMC IT**